

IN THE CLAIMS:

20. (Previously Present) Carbon black pellets, prepared from uncompacted carbon black powder, having a relative color intensity, based on the uncompacted carbon black powder, of greater than 100% which have been compacted two or more times with different compressive forces and/or wherein the pellets comprise one or more binders and/or dispersants in a total quantity of between 10 to 25 wt.%, based on the weight of the pellets.

21. (Previously Presented) The pellets of Claim 20 wherein the pellets have an average particle size of 0.3 to 2 mm and a quotient of pycnometric density and bulk density between 3.0 and 10.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Currently Amended) The pellets of Claim 22 20 wherein the  
pellets comprise a binder and/or dispersant in a total quality of 0.1 to 25 wt.%  
based on the weight of the pellets and wherein the binder comprises a liquid  
polyol, polyether, polyester, oil, water or an aqueous solution of a polymeric salt  
or molasses.

24. (Previously Presented) The pellets of Claim 22 wherein the dispersant comprises a lignin sulfonate or a naphthalene/formaldehyde condensation product.

25. (Previously Presented) A process for the production of carbon black pellets which comprises compacting carbon black two or more times with different compressive forces in the presence of an auxiliary substance in a total quantity of between 10 to 25 wt.%, based on the weight of the pellets and comminuting the compacted carbon black to pellets having an average particle

size of 0.3 to 2 mm and a quotient of pycnometric density and bulk density between 3.0 and 10.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 25 comprising using compression forces of between 1 and 100 kN/cm.

29. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 25 comprising performing the compaction by screws, rollers, die presses or extruders.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 30-25, wherein the auxiliary substance is a binder and/or dispersant used in a total quantity of 0.1 to 25% based on the weight of the pellet, and wherein the binder comprises a liquid polyol, polyether, polyester, oil, water or an aqueous solution of a polymeric salt or molasses.

32. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 30-31, wherein the dispersant comprises a lignin sulfonate and a naphthalene/formaldehyde condensation product.

33. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 25 comprising coating the resulting pellets with wax, polyether, polyolefin or polyvinyl alcohol.

34. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 33 comprising adding a preservative and/or fragrance to the wax, polyether, polyolefin or polyvinyl alcohol.

size of 0.3 to 2 mm and a quotient of pycnometric density and bulk density between 3.0 and 10.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 25 comprising using compression forces of between 1 and 100 kN/cm.

29. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 25 comprising performing the compaction by screws, rollers, die presses or extruders.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 30-25, wherein the auxiliary substance is a binder and/or dispersant used in a total quantity of 0.1 to 25% based on the weight of the pellet, and wherein the binder comprises a liquid polyol, polyether, polyester, oil, water or an aqueous solution of a polymeric salt or molasses.

32. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 30-31, wherein the dispersant comprises a lignin sulfonate and a naphthalene/formaldehyde condensation product.

33. (Previously Previously) The process of Claim 25 comprising coating the resulting pellets with wax, polyether, polyolefin or polyvinyl alcohol.

34. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 33 comprising adding a preservative and/or fragrance to the wax, polyether, polyolefin or polyvinyl alcohol.